

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, DR

SUBJECT: THIRD ANNUAL SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES

1. THE RECENT PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR ON THE CONTEMPORARY U.S. SPONSORED

BY DOMINICAN ASSOCIATION OF EX-GRANTEES AGAIN ATTRACTED STRONG AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FROM PROFESSORS, PROFESSIONALS AND EX-GRANTEES IN NINE ACADEMIC FIELDS. THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR AGAIN TOOK PLACE IN SANTO DOMINGO BNC. IT CONSISTED OF TEN 10-HOUR COURSES CONDUCTED BY EIGHT US UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND AUTHOR PAT CONROY. IN ADDITION TO THE CURSILLOS AND EVENING LECTURES, A SERIES OF AFTERNOON LECTURES FOCUSED ON THE WORLD FOOD CRISIS, WITH FIVE PROFESSORS OFFERING TALKS ON ASPECTS OF CRISIS PERTINENT TO THEIR FIELD OF SPECIALIZATION. THESE WILL BE ASSEMBLED AS A COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF EX-GRANTEE ASSOCIATION.

2. OVER 170 EX-GRANTEES AND PROFESSIONALS ATTENDED THE SEMINAR, INCLUDING 32 FACULTY MEMBERS FROM HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC, LEFTIST-LEANING

AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF SANTO DOMINGO (UASD) WHOSE RECTOR WOULD NOT ASSOCIATE OFFICIALLY WITH THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR. ATTENDANCE, PARTICULARLY EVENING SESSIONS, WAS HURT BY THE ASSASSINATION OF A PROMINENT NEWSPAPER EDITOR AS THE SEMINAR OPENED.

3. MEMBERS OF SEMINAR FACULTY ALSO FOUND TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST IN SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, AND PEDRO HENRIQUEZ URENA UNIVERSITY (UNPHU) UNDER WHOSE SPONSORSHIP FIVE US AND SIX DOMINICAN PROFESSORS

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CONDUCTED AN EVENING ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON THE WORLD FOOD

CRISIS TO AN AUDIENCE AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY.

4. AT CLOSING CEREMONIES ON MARCH 21, DR. ALTAGRACIA PEREZ
PENA OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE
DOMINICANS'
INTEREST IN AND APPRECIATION OF OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE
WITH HIGHLY QUALIFIED US COLLEAGUES IN DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS
OF MUTUAL INTEREST. SHE PRAISED THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE SEMINAR,
ITS BROAD SCOPE, EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION, AND THE IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTION IT HAD MADE TO DOMINICAN-AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING.

5. COMMENT: THE AMBASSADOR HAS OBSERVED THAT HE FOUND THIS
TYPE OF SEMINAR THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL METHOD OF
MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH EX-GRANTEES (ALWAYS A PROBLEM) THAT HE
HAS ENCOUNTERED IN MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS OF FOREIGN SERVICE
EXPERIENCE. IN TRYING TO FOLLOW UP ON GRANTEES' ACTIVITIES
SYSTEMATICALLY AFTER THEIR RETURN.
HE HAS TRIED VARIOUS DEVICES
ELSEWHERE WITHOUT SIMILAR SUCCESS.

6. A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF SEMINAR (WITH SAMPLES OF
WIDE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE) IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY
AIRGRAM.
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